

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 04292 01 OF 02 171602Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 VO-03 SCA-01 EURE-00 IO-10

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P R 171547Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8709

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 04292

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS" ELAB, GW, OEXC

SUBJECT: DGB VISIT TO AFL-CIO

1. SUMMARY. A DELEGATION OF SEVEN DGB INDUSTRIAL UNION LEADERS DEPARTED MARCH 16 FOR A 10-DAY VISIT IN THE UNITED STATES AS GUESTS OF THE AFL-CIO. THE AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT WILL ARRANGE THEIR PROGRAM. AFL-CIO EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN ACCEPTED THE DGB INVITATION TO COME TO FRANKFURT FOR A PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING ON MARCH 15. END SUMMARY

2. THE DELEGATION INCLUDES LEONHARD MAHLEIN, PRESIDENT OF PRINTING AND PAPER WORKERS UNION; SIEGFRIED MERTEN,  
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PAGE 02 BONN 04292 01 OF 02 171602Z

MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PUBLIC SERVICES AND TRANS-

PORT WORKERS UNION; WOLFGANG WEBER, TREASURER OF THE FOOD-PROCESSING WORKERS UNION; BRUNO KOEBELE, MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CONSTRUCTION, STONE AND EARTH WORKERS UNION; HERR BEIGK, PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHEMICAL WORKERS UNION, KARL HAUENSCHILD; (HAUENSCHILD IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL WORKERS FEDERATION - ICF); AND HARALD SIMON OF THE DGB INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

3. THE DGB SUGGESTED THE FOLLOWING TENTATIVE PROGRAM TO THE AFL-CIO:

SUNDAY, MAR 16 - ARRIVE WASHINGTON. BRIEFING BY GERMAN EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE, DR. JOACHIM VOSS.

MONDAY, MAR 17 - TALKS WITH AFL-CIO ON GERMAN/AMERICAN RELATIONS, TRADE UNIONS AND MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND THE ROLE OF TRADE UNIONS IN AMERICAN POLITICAL LIFE.

TUESDAY, MAR 18 - VISITS TO TRADE UNION HEADQUARTERS LOCATED IN WASHINGTON INCLUDING THE UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA, THE UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA, FOR DISCUSSIONS ON SOCIAL POLICY, COLLECTIVE BARGAINING POLICY AND MANPOWER TRAINING PROBLEMS.

WEDNESDAY, MAR 19 - POSSIBLE VISIT TO LABOR DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH POLICY, MANPOWER POLICY, AND POSSIBLE VISIT TO NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD.

THURSDAY, MAR 20 - VISIT TO CONGRESS, TALKS WITH STATE COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES UNION AND POSSIBLE VISIT TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE. FLIGHT TO CHICAGO.

FRIDAY, MAR 21 - VISIT TO AMALGAMATED MEAT CUTTERS AND BUTCHER WORKMEN OF NORTH AMERICA AND STEELWORKERS UNION. VISIT FACTORIES AND TALK WITH LOCAL UNION REPRESENTATIVES.

SATURDAY, MAR 22 - FLIGHT TO NEW YORK.

SUNDAY, MAR 23 - TOUR NEW YORK.

MONDAY, MAR 24 - MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF TEXTILE AND CLOTHING WORKERS UNION ON MUTUAL PROBLEMS.

TUESDAY, MAR 25 - VISIT FRG MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BONN 04292 01 OF 02 171602Z

TIONS. DEPART NEW YORK FOR FRANKFURT.

4. ALTHOUGH ABOVE PROGRAM WAS APPARENTLY NOT CONFIRMED BY AFL-CIO BEFORE THE DELEGATION DEPARTED, THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND ON THE PARTICIPANTS MAY BE OF USE TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND LABOR IF CONTACTS DEVELOP DURING THIS VISIT.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM THE DGB, THE AFL-CIO EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN TRAVELED TO FRANKFURT TO BRIEF THE DELEGATION ON THE MAIN ISSUES FACING AMERICAN TRADE UNIONS.

6. SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION HAVE INDICATED TO THE EMBASSY LABATT THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE THE AFL-CIO TO RETURN TO THE ICFTU.

7. LEONHARD MAHLEIN, A BAVARIAN AND THE ONLY UNION PRESIDENT IN THE GROUP, IS PRESIDENT OF THE PRINTING AND

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PAGE 01 BONN 04292 02 OF 02 171606Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

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P R 171547Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8710

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 04292

PAPER WORKERS UNION, ONE OF THE MORE LEFTIST UNIONS WITHIN THE DGB. AT ITS LAST CONVENTION, THE PRINTERS PASSED A RESOLUTION FAVORING CONTACTS WITH THE ITALIAN CGIL AND THE FRENCH CGT. HOWEVER DURING THE LAST NINE MONTHS, THE PRINTERS HAVE MOVED TO COUNTER THE GROWING INFLUENCE OF LEFTISTS BY REVISING THEIR CONSTITUTION MAKING IT EASIER TO EXPELL EXTREMISTS. MAHLEIN IS FRIENDLY AND AFFABLE IN PERSONAL CONTACTS, BUT HE DOES NOT KNOW THE AMERICAN LABOR SCENE. HE IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN MEETING KENNETH BROWN OF THE PRINTING AND PRESSMEN AND ASSISTANTS' UNION, WHO CONTACTED HIM ON A LABOR DISPUTE IN THE UNITED STATES INVOLVING THE GERMAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BONN 04292 02 OF 02 171606Z

PRINTING FIRM "BURDA" WHICH HAS ESTABLISHED A NEW FIRM IN VIRGINIA. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MEET OFFICIALS OF THE GRAPHIC ARTS INTERNATIONAL UNION.

8. THE FRG'S SECOND LARGEST UNION, THE PUBLIC SERVICES AND TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION, WILL BE REPRESENTED BY SIEGFRIED MERTEN, ONE OF THE MORE INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE UNION'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. FOR MANY YEARS HE SERVED IN THE IMPORTANT POSITION AS THE UNION'S LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE IN BONN WHERE HE MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE BUNDESTAG, THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES AND POLITICAL PARTIES. HE IS ONE OF THE UNION'S MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE LEADERS ON THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SCENE.

9. THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS UNION REPRESENTATIVE IS BRUNO KOEBELE, WHO SERVED AS HOST TO JOSEF CERVENY, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES FROM CHICAGO WHEN HE VISITED THE FRG IN MAY 1973 ON THE STAG PROGRAM. KOEBELE HANDLES ALL OF THE APPRENTICESHIP AND MANPOWER TRAINING PROGRAMS OF THE GERMAN CONSTRUCTION WORKERS UNION AND IS ONE OF THE YOUNGER LEADERS OF THIS UNION WHICH WAS FORMERLY LED BY NOW DEFENSE MINISTER GEORG LEBER.

10. WOLFGANG WEBER, TREASURER OF THE FOOD-PROCESSING WORKERS UNION, ALSO PLAYS A ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FOOD AND ALLIED TRADES WORKERS. WEBER PARTICULARLY WELCOMES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES SINCE HE WAS NOMINATED FOR A VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES PREVIOUSLY, BUT WAS UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE AT THE TIME.

11. HERR BEIGK FROM THE CHEMICAL WORKERS UNION ACTS AS PRINCIPAL STAFF ASSISTANT TO KARL HAUENSCHILD, WHO IS

THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL WORKERS FEDERATION AND PLAYS A ROLE IN THE FORMULATION OF ATTITUDES ON ENERGY POLICY OF THE GERMAN CHEMICAL WORKERS WHICH REPRESENTS THE PETROLEUM WORKERS IN GERMANY.

12. HARALD SIMON FROM THE DGB INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT  
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PAGE 03 BONN 04292 02 OF 02 171606Z

WILL ACT AS INTERPRETER FOR THE GROUP. SIMON VISITED THE UNITED STATES SEVERAL YEARS AGO ON THE INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM AND ALSO HAS ACCOMPANIED TOP GERMAN LEADERS ON THEIR VISITS TO EASTERN EUROPE.

13. HANS PFISTER, TREASURER OF THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING WORKERS UNION, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS GROUP, WAS FORCED TO CANCEL BECAUSE OF SERIOUS ILLNESS.

14. COMMENT. IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS THIRD DGB/AFL-CIO EXCHANGE, THE DGB HAS PLACED PRIORITY ON DEVELOPING THESE CONTACTS EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH THE AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT TO IMPROVE THE POSSIBILITIES OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTERS ON MUTUAL PROBLEMS. PREVIOUS TO ARRANGING THIS TRIP, THE DGB AND THE FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVES ALSO MET IN LONDON WITH IRVING BROWN, TUC AND BRITISH LABOR PARTY REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITIES OF JOINT ACTION ON MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES. THE DGB HAS INVITED THE AFL-CIO TO ITS FORTHCOMING TRIENNIAL CONVENTION IN MAY, BUT SO FAR THE AFL-CIO HAS NOT REPLIED. THE AFL-CIO APPARENTLY HAD AGREED INFORMALLY TO SEND A DELEGATION TO THE FRG IN EARLY 1975, BUT THE STATUS OF THIS VISIT NOW IS UNCLEAR AFTER THE DGB HOSTED RECENTLY THE VISIT OF SOVIET AUCCTU CHAIRMAN SHELEPIN. PERHAPS THIS QUESTION MAY ALSO BE RESOLVED DURING THIS VISIT. HILLENBRAND

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